

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /063 W
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R 051200Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5710

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3280

EO: 11652 NA

TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJ: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) ISTANBUL
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

REF ISTANBUL 3103

SUMMARY: MODERATES IN REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) REELECT
AYTEKIN KOTIL LOCAL PARTY CHAIRMAN AMID PROTESTS FROM
RPP FAR LEFT.

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) ISTANBUL PROVINCIAL CONGRESS
NOV. 30/DEC. 1 REELECTED INCUMBENT CHAIRMAN AYTEKIN KOTIL
AND GOVERNING BOARD (YONETIM KURULU) OF "CENTER LEFT" (EYUBOGLU
FACTION) AMID STRONG CHALLENGE FROM MORE EXTREME "DEMOCRATIC
LEFT" (KIRIKOGLU FACTION) WHICH BRANDED INCUMBENTS AS TRAITORS
TO PARTY AND PEOPLE. IN VOTE THAT REQUIRED RECOUNT, KOTIL SLATE
RECEIVED 586 VOTES AGAINST 337 FOR OPPONENTS.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE EARLIER EFFORTS OF KOTIL TO DISMISS
INFLUENCE OF DEMOCRATIC LEFT AS SIMPLE PRE-CONVENTION
MANEUVERING (REFTEL), RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF ANTI-KOTIL VOTES
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CLEARLY INDICATES PARTY IS DIVIDED. AT CONVENTION, ATTENDED BY

CONGENOFF, DEMOCRATIC LEFT MUCH IN EVIDENCE WITH ANTI-IMPERIALIST SLOGANS POSTED IN CONVENTION HALL, AS WELL AS VOCAL GROUP OF SUPPORTERS IN GALLERIES. DEMOCRATIC LEFT LOADED SPEAKERS' LIST WITH OWN FAVORITES WHO BLUNTLY ACCUSED KOTIL AND ISTANBUL MAYOR ISVAN OF BETRAYING PARTY. IN SEVERAL INSTANCES CONGRESS CHAIRMAN HAD TO INTERRUPT SPEAKERS AND DISPATCH USHERS TO BREAK UP INCIDENTS TRIGGERED BY EXTREMISTS. ALTHOUGH MODERATES SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING CONVENTION, RELATIVE STRENGTH OF OPPOSITION SUGGESTS THAT CONTINUING INTRA-PARTY FACTIONAL STRUGGLE MAY WEAKEN LOCAL ORGANIZATION AS RPP PREPARES CAMPAIGN FOR POSSIBLE EARLY ELECTIONS. IT ALSO SUGGESTS RPP MODERATES MAY HAVE EVEN LESS ABILITY TO EXERCISE RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON STUDENT EXTREMISTS, PARTICULARLY IF LATTER SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BY RPP LEFT WING TO STEP UP PROTEST ACTIVITIES IN COMING MONTHS.

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